

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION JOINS CRITICISM OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S
COMMENTS

REFS: (A) ATHENS 3479, (B) ANKARA 2888

1. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' SHARP PUBLIC
RESPONSE (REFTEL A) TO THE RECENT MILLIYET INTERVIEW BY HIS TURKISH
COUNTERPART, IHSAN CAGLAYANGIL, (REFTEL B), WAS RELATIVELY
MILD COMPARED TO THE STRONGER REACTION OF GEORGE MAVROS,
LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER WHICH IS
THE LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY, AND INTEMPERATE ANDREAS
PAPANDREOU OF PASOK. MAVROS ARGUED THAT WHILE MUCH OF
WHAT THE TURKS SAY IS ADDRESSED TO DOMESTIC AUDIENCES
DURING THE ELECTORAL PERIOD IN TURKEY, THE "PROVOCATIVE
STATEMENTS" OF THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER PROVED TALKS
WERE NOT ONLY "USELESS" BUT WERE EVEN "HARMFUL."
TURKEY SEEKS TO ALTER THE MAP OF EUROPE BY FORCE, MAVROS
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CHARGED, AND HE CALLED FOR AN END TO THE DIALOGUE WITH
THE TURKS.

2. FIERY PAPANDREOU TOOK ANOTHER TACK. HE FIRST TOOK
THE GOG TO TASK FOR NOT RAISING THE ISSUE OF "TURKISH
ATROCITIES IN CYPRUS" AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
SCHEDULED LATER THIS MONTH IN STRASBOURG. HE NEXT ASKED

RHETORICALLY IF FOREIGN MINISTER KITSIOS, WHILE "REPRESENTING THE GREEK JUNTA AND THE UN" HAD NOT MADE SOME SORT OF A COMMITMENT TO TURKEY SO THE LATTER WOULD NOT VOTE FOR GREECE'S EXPULSION FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (KITSIOS WAS GREEK PERMREP TO THE UN FROM 1967 TO 1972). FINALLY, PAPANDREOU MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE THAT THE GOG SHOULD REMAIN SILENT WHILE "TURKEY IS OPENLY PROVOCATIVE BOTH IN CYPRUS AND IN THE AEGEAN" SINCE TO REFRAIN FROM CRITICISM WOULD BOLSTER TURKISH INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA AT THE EXPENSE OF GREECE AND CYPRUS.

3. COMMENT: UNPALATABLE AS IT MAY BE, GOG OFFICIALS SEEM TO HAVE GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE ELECTORAL PERIOD IN TURKEY WILL PROBABLY INTENSIFY THE ANTI-GREEK HOSTILITY IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE VARIOUS CANDIDATES. ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITION DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEKS --BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL -- WILL REFRAIN FROM RETORTING STRONGLY ON THEIR OWN.
KUBISCH

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